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Donna Shalala, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Secretary Shalala,

I wanted to express my concerns about the use of radiation as a means to preserve food. It is my understanding that this is done mostly for cosmetic reasons. While there may be some increased shelf life from irradiation, I see this as a loosing situation for consumers. We are being sold food that has been modified through unnatural means. The big problem is that we do not even know when we are buying irradiated food. How can this happen.

The use of irradiation, without warning consumers is not happening because it helps consumers. It happens because it helps large corporations. I would hope that your office would advocate for the best health interest of consumers. Food that has a longer shelf life is not going to make me healthier. I want to buy honest food that is grown within two days drive of my home. I want food that knows how to rot. I want real food, not a vegetable product! I don't trust perfect looking grapes.

I hope that as consumers of food, you and your staff will work to ensure that we are warned about which foods have been altered through unnatural means.

Thanks,

*Apple Quick*

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